

AMENDMENT

In the Specification

Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 21, with the following paragraph:

A1 --As an example of the advantages of matching on IPA, consider a query on the name Lee. Converted to the IPA string [li], exact matches with numerous spelling variants are automatic, including Leigh and Li. Typical prior-art character based matches will fail to retrieve Leigh or Li, since the percentage of character overlap is minimal. Conversely, a standard index matching system such as Soundex will categorize Lee and Li identically, but will still miss Leigh, given the presence of a salient letter (g), and will retrieve a large number of names of low relevance, including Lu, Liao, Low, Louie, Lahoya, and Lehw. The IPA analysis process is further described in Appendix F, which forms a part of this specification.

Please substitute the paragraph beginning on page 20, line 1, with the following paragraph:

A2 --One preferred embodiment implementing many desirable features of the system shown in Figure 1 is a standalone database search and retrieval program. In addition to including the features described above (and in further detail in the Appendices), this embodiment of the invention may preferably be implemented according to the disclosure in Appendices G, H, I, and J, which form a part of this specification and are: a narrative description, technical plan, acceptance test, and source code listing respectively for a system demonstrating numerous features of the present invention.--